# NEW-ENGLAND FARMER.

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## NEW ENGLAND FARMER.

### COLMAN'S EUROPEAN AGRICULTURE—PART V.

Whatever fault may be found with this No. of Mr Colman's work, we think it will not meet the objection of being deficient in *variety*. We subjoin the list of contents:

General Markets, (continued); General Remarks and Divisions of the Subject of English Farming; The Soil; Theories of the Operation of the Soil; A Modern Discovery; Soils of Great Britain; Classification of Soils; Physical Properties of the Soil; Peaty Soil; Loamy Soils; Humus, or Vegetable Mould; Peculiarities of Soil; Application of Chemistry to Agriculture; Theory of Agriculture; Actual Improvements; Plowing; The English Character, (a digression); The Perfection of Plowing; Plowing Match at Saffron Walden; General Rules for Plowing; Subsoil Plowing; A Digression; Improved Machinery; Moral Considerations; Harrowing; Scarifying, or Grubbing; General Remarks on the Use of Agricultural Machinery; Particular Examples of Improvement; Cornwall and the Land's End; Table of Calculations on Plowing.

The most interesting portion of this number, to the practical farmer, is that devoted to the subject of plowing. We append a few extracts:

"The first and most general operation to which the soil is subjected, is plowing. Man must have been early taught that, in order to render the earth productive, it must be tilled; and it would be extremely curious, if the materials of such history were attainable, to trace the progress of improvement from the first instrument employed to stir the earth, to the present beautiful and ingenious implement, by which acres, and miles of acres, are at pleasure inverted. It would be interesting to know how the North American Indians cultivated their corn (maize) when the country was discovered; tradition has not preserved the traces of the method which they adopted. Their implements must have been few, and of the most simple description. The smooth stones, of a wedge shape, some of which I have myself found in places known as their favorite haunts, may have been used for digging the ground for the deposit of the seed, and perhaps for keeping the soil loose round the plants: near the sea-shore, a clam-shell may have answered the same purpose. Of weeds, probably they had few to contend with, as the land was new and not surcharged with manure, of which, perhaps, they did not know the use. * * *

I think I may say that, in England and Scotland, the art of plowing has reached perfection, and that it is unrivalled and unsurpassable. I cannot conceive how it can be improved; and this not in rare instances, and at plowing matches, but I may say universally. In some cases, the work has been done better than in others; but I have not seen an example of bad plowing in the country: I have not seen one, which, in the United States, would not be pronounced superior."

"I attended, among several others, a plowing match at Saffron Walden, where there were at least ten competitors, with lots of an eighth of an acre; and, as well as I can remember, the furrow-slices were to be seven inches in width and five inches in depth. It was not a match against time, although the work was required to be completed within a certain time. I do not misstate when I say that I do not believe there was the variation of an inch in the whole field, in the width or depth of the furrow, or a single crooked line, or even one solitary balk. The fields or lands were struck out before beginning. Two horses composed a team, and the plowman was his own driver. Some boys under eighteen, were allowed to enter as competitors for boys' premiums. I went over the field in an ecstacy of admiration at its uniformity, neatness, exactness, and beauty. * * * *

Two circumstances contribute strongly to the perfecting of this most essential art. The first is, that boys are trained to it as early as they can possibly be employed with safety. The second is, the division of labor which generally prevails, so that individuals devote themselves, to a degree exclusively, to one particular object; a plowman is constantly employed at the plow, and a herdsman in the pastures or stalls.

There are two points which have seemed to me always particularly to test the skill of a plowman. The one is the mode in which he lays out his land, and strikes the first furrow; and the second, that in which he finishes the last furrow. In the case to which I have referred, the last land remained, at the close, a single unbroken strip of equal width, from one end of the field to the other, lying like a stretched-out ribbon, which, as the plowman came down the course, he turned without breaking, and with perfect precision, from one end to the other. In this instance, the horses seemed almost as well trained as the driver, and inspired with an equal emulation. The finishing of the ends of the lands is always a work of great care: they are cross-plowed, and the whole affair is completed with an equal neatness throughout.

I have seen very good plowing in the United States, and perhaps in no department of agriculture has greater improvement taken place than in plowing, and in the construction of plows. Formerly, nothing could be more slovenly executed. A straight line was not to be seen. The land was not half turned over. The furrows were of such depth or thickness as they might chance to be; and the plow itself, when in action, resembled very much a live animal, with a sort of grasshopper motion, which one man at the stilts, and often two men riding on the beam, were struggling to keep down, and, like police officers, to prevent its escape. A man was always required, likewise, with a hoe, to assist in turning the furrow-slice at the end of the share, or in the discouraging duty of raising again, and turning over by main force, those furrow-slices which, notwithstanding they had been raised by the plow, like a reluctant boy pulled out of bed in the morning, with his eyes half open, insist upon getting back again as soon as the master's back is turned. I remember many a thump on the breast from the handles of the plow, and many a sudden jerk, which has thrown me upon the furrow, when I have been riding on the beam, and many a splitting of a beam, and many a breaking of a share; and have looked back with dismay upon a long furrow-slice obstinately turning back into the furrow, after I had supposed it securely laid over. Somewhat of this experience may have been necessary to enable me to estimate properly the excellence of English plowing, when the implement seemed to move through the ground with as much quietness, directness, ease—I may almost add grace—as a boat through the water, with its sails spread to a favoring breeze, and an accomplished steersman at the helm. Some allowance is to be made for the condition of our fields, compared with the English fields. Here there are no stumps of trees, and no stones, to impede or derange the plow. With us, alas! in many cases, the stumps and stones remain in resolute opposition, to dispute our entrance, and, like bad tenants, can be dispossessed only by main force."

"*General Rules for Plowing.*—The depth of plowing varies in different soils, and for different purposes. The average depth may be considered as five inches, but no direction on the subject will be found universally applicable. Three of the most eminent practical farmers with whom I am acquainted here, plow not more than three inches; but the surface mould in these cases, is very thin, and the understratum is a cold, clammy chalk. * * In cases where subsoiling and thorough draining are not applied, this shallow plowing may be preferred, as the mingling of the cold and inert subsoil with so thin a surface of vegetable mould, would doubtless be prejudicial, at least for a length of time; but the improvement of such land by a system of thorough draining and subsoiling, is another matter, to which I shall refer in its proper place. * * The general rule in England, where the soil admits of it, and manure is abundant, is that of rather deep plowing."

Besides a steel engraving of an Aberdeenshire Prize Bull, the No. contains fine wood cuts showing the structure of various kinds of plows in use in Great Britain—also, harrows, cultivators, scarifiers, grubber, fork spade, &c.

This No. completes the first volume of the work. Of the character of this volume, we will not express our opinion farther than to say that it contains much that is agreeable to the general reader, while it is not deficient in matter calculated to interest the practical farmer. But, in consideration of the important topics of which the author is yet to treat, we presume the second volume will be of greater practical value; and that the work will, when completed, (to adopt the words of our correspondent "J. H. D.," in his notice of the 4th No.,) be no less satisfactory to the author's patrons than creditable to himself.

Subscriptions to the work are received by Mr A. D. PHELPS, 121 Washington street.

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Some person who had nothing else to do, has ascertained that there are five hundred and fifty thousand grains in a bushel of wheat, five hundred and twenty thousand in barley, one million two hundred and sixty thousand in oats.

From the London Gardener's Chronicle.

## DO THE RACES OF PLANTS WEAR OUT?

BY PROF. LINDLEY.

No. II.

Although we regard the notion that *races of plants wear out*, as utterly baseless and visionary, we are by no means opposed to certain conclusions at which writers adopting that erroneous hypothesis, have arrived. We admit that their statements are in many instances correct. We have nothing to offer in the way of objection to their experiments: it is only against their false reasoning that we are obliged to protest.

Mr Knight found that diseased apple trees produced diseased descendants, and that the evil of the parents went onwards to their children from generation to generation; and therefore he concluded that the apple trees were dying of old age.

A writer of elaborate articles in the *Morning Herald*, Mr Townley, infers, because the gooseberry growers of Lancashire, find the weight of their fruit diminishes, "after the varieties have been cultivated some time," that, therefore, these varieties are dying of old age—and he has expended no inconsiderable quantity of learning in attempting to fit this speculation to the Potato. So impressed, indeed, is he with a conviction of its truth, that he recommends people to be sent to Peru, or wherever else the Potato grows wild, in order to get seeds and tubers of vigorous wild plants. And all this is imitated by a shoal of persons who catch up the idea, and forthwith write letters to newspapers, or men in office, or rush into pamphlets, with all the complacency which invariably attends an ignorance of facts, or even of sound principles.

It is very singular that not one of all those writers who have of late been fatiguing the public eye, should have perceived that the very few facts on which they rely, are susceptible of a much more simple interpretation than that given by Mr Knight and caught up by themselves. It is marvelous that they should have imagined that the common sense, (to say nothing of the science,) of the intelligent cultivators of the present day, should accept for truth such an extraordinary exhibition of false reasoning. One would think that all death or disease was exclusively the consequence of old age.

It has been well known from all antiquity that if vigorous children spring from vigorous parents, so also is a diseased and debilitated progeny the sure issue of parents weak in body and mind.

The obvious interpretation of the apple tree and gooseberry bush cases, which have so perplexed the minds of the little patriots of our day, is this: a tree is allowed, from some cause or other, to become unhealthy; a part cut from it and put upon another tree, carries its disease with it; when again divided, the disease is again propagated; and this will go on so long as the unhealthy plants remain exposed to the circumstances which originally caused their bad health. But, change those circumstances—keep off the cause of the evil, and the evil will gradually disappear, as has actually happened in the instances mentioned in our last, which are a conclusive answer to the whole wearing out hypothesis.

These were the just views of Mr Garden, of Glenae, to which we alluded last week. "We may for a time," says this gentleman, "raise species of diseased plants, and employ these as the seed (sets) of the next crop. Nothing can be more manifest than that the offspring of diseased parents will participate in their disease, and even be incapable of cure, or of becoming the seed of a healthful crop on any soil. * * It is evident that diseased plants may be more easily cultivated on a healthful and fresh soil than on one which is diseased and run out. * * But the *abundance* and *healthfulness* of the crop are two very different things. It is well ascertained that seed potatoes (sets) taken from fields where potatoes have been seldom cultivated, are less liable to fail than those raised on fields which have produced *many* potato crops. The latter *forced* in diseased or exhausted fields, are unfit for seeds (sets) in any situation."

Nothing can be more true. The health of the potato crop is not with any certainty to be increased by raising new varieties from seeds. The result of that operation may be better or worse, according to the health or constitutional peculiarity of the individual from which the seeds were gathered, or according to the way in which those mysterious influences which cause constitutional difference operate while the young seedling is passing through the processes of organization. We all know that some seedlings are tall, others dwarf, some early, others late, some robust, others delicate, some extraordinarily rich in starch, others deficient in that product; and we can never tell beforehand, with any certainty, what peculiarities a given seedling will possess. The idea, therefore, of renovating the potato crops of Europe by raising them from seed, is a dream. What is really wanted, and what *must* be better attended to, is the renovation of the crop by a skilful cultivation of the potatoes we already have.

What we, then, would advise potato growers to do, is not to indulge in a vain hope that seedling potatoes will be any better than what they now have; but to adopt the practice of raising potatoes for sets upon a different principle from those for the table. To treat the latter as they now do, but to grow the former in poor, light land, where there there shall be no excessively rapid growth, and no great produce, but yielding small, compact potatoes, thoroughly organized, thoroughly ripened, and therefore thoroughly healthy—will be a guarantee of all the freedom from disease, which in the nature of things is to be expected, and a far more rational means of renovating the potato crop than running to Peru for seed not half so good as our own.

## OAT FODDER FOR HORSES.

At a discussion had at a meeting of the Darlington (Eng.) Farmers' Club, Dec. 8th, on the best and cheapest mode of keeping draught horses during winter, Mr Trotter said:

"I have paid some attention to the subject of keeping of draught horses during winter: for the last three years I have adopted quite a different mode to what I previously followed. My method formerly was to allow my draught horses each 2 bushels of oats per week, together with 1 bushel of beans and as much hay as they could eat, generally clover hay. For the last three winters I have fed them almost entirely on cut oat-sheaf—cut into half-inch chaff—which has been a very great saving to me.

In an oat crop of about 40 stooks per acre, which might yield near 60 bushels, the feed of a draught horse averages 2 sheaves per day, or 14 sheaves per week, which would be about a bushel and 3 pecks per week, if they had been thrashed out, which is a saving of a peck of oats per week, each horse, from what I formerly gave them; besides, I save the bushel of beans per week, and the clover hay, which was a very considerable item. When I first changed my mode of feeding, the horses improved in condition wonderfully, thus showing that it suits them well. When they are very hard worked, I allow them half a peck of oats at dinner time besides the cut sheaf.

Last winter I had only 18 acres of oats; those kept 12 draft horses, besides four young ones occasionally. This quantity of oats would not have served me through the year, had I not pursued this system of feeding."—*London Ag. Gaz.*

## PLOWING.

There is yet an undecided point amongst many farmers relative to the best manner of laying the furrow slice. Some contend for turning it completely over, i. e. laying it quite flat; and others, that it is most advantageous to place each slice in such a manner that its outer edge may extend a little over the inner edge of the furrow which was drawn before it. In my opinion, the principal objects in plowing are, to expose as much as possible to the atmosphere, and lay the land so that the harrow may in the most effectual manner raise the mould to cover the seed. These objects are the more readily accomplished by plowing land of every description (excepting dry sandy soil,) with a furrow slice 7 inches deep and about 10 1-2 broad; the furrow slice will form an angle of about 45°.

Plowing stiff clayey lands previous to the setting in of winter, is of great benefit, exposing the surface to the frost, which mellows and reduces it in a manner infinitely superior to what could be accomplished by all the operations of man.

Dry sandy soils should not be plowed in ridges, but turned completely over, and kept as level as possible. Such soils, if rendered loose and laid light by cultivation, will be greatly robbed of their fertilizing particles.

In regard to deep plowing, I would remark, that some proportion ought to be observed between the depth of plowing, the nature of the soil, subsoil, and the quantity of manure annually spread. I have witnessed where old pasture land, of a sandy loam, had been subsoil plowed in the spring for oats, that the crop failed. Now, there appears to me two reasons for this failure: in the first place, the subsoil brought to the surface to form the seed-bed, must have been infertile and cold. In the second case, the dry tenacious sward being placed under the seed-bed, the moisture of the soil was quickly evaporated. The grand object of *deep* pulverization, is to cause the earth to retain heat and moisture, so necessary to the healthy growth of vegetables of every description.—*J. M'Intosh, in London Ag. Gaz.*

*Whiskey Milk.*—A writer in the New York Observer states that he "recently visited a whiskey distillery, situated in a densely populated part of that city, where he found *two thousand cows* [incredible] confined in stalls, and fed on the 'slops,' or refuse grain, which runs directly from the still to the feeding troughs of the animals; and there, day and night, the poor creatures stand, amidst a most intolerable stench, eating these unwholesome slops, and preparing a loathsome liquid, which is extracted from their udders, and sold in the streets of of New York as farm-house milk."

[We should think such milk would bear liberal *watering* without injury to its quality.]

## CONSUMPTION OF GUANO IN ENGLAND.

One hundred and thirtyseven thousand and three hundred tons of Guano were consumed in this country between the 1st of July 1844, and the 1st of July, 1845. Of this quantity, Africa supplied us with about 160,000 tons, and South America with the remainder. The cost price to the farmer of this manure, may be estimated as follows—

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|---|---|
| 100,000 tons African, at 8*l.* per ton | £800,000 |
| 37,300 tons Peruvian, at 12*l.* per ton | 447,600 |
| Making a total cost of | £1,247,600 |

A million and a quarter of money spent by British farmers in a fertiliser which was unknown in practice five years ago, is an *astounding fact*, and one which is pregnant with interesting considerations. Thus in the first place it is a direct and practical refutation of the libel so industriously asserted by some, and blindly believed by others, that the farmers of England are "as stubborn as the clays they cultivate," and are unwilling to adopt modern ideas for the improvement of their practice, and the increase of their produce. There are, doubtless, some who are even yet ignorant of the value of this fertiliser; but the fact of the great consumption to which we have alluded proves that the cases are not "few and far between" in which the farmer has been neither dull of conviction nor tardy in action.

A demand increasing in four years from nothing to 130,000 tons, is evidence enough that there are some apt scholars amongst us. In like manner it is an answer to the open enemies and lukewarm friends who doubt the utility of our agricultural societies, and who sneer at the efforts of all who labor with their pens or their voices to stimulate the mind of the farmer to enquiry, and to diffuse, over the length and breadth of the land, the principles of the science and the practice of an art upon which so much depends, and comparatively so little is known.

For if we grant that some few persons directly interested in the cultivation of the soil knew the utility of the manure on its first importation, and that analysis pointed out to others *why* and *wherefore* of the fact, how is it that this fact is new or strange in any part of Her Majesty's dominions? How is it that it has endured the ordeal of doubt and denial, and has gained such general confidence in so short a time? By what means has the knowledge of a practice so novel as the use of this manure been so quickly diffused? Truth, strong as it may be, cannot travel without a conveyance, and facts are generally longer on the road than fiction. Nor does ignorance ever give place to knowledge without a struggle for the victory. To the meetings, speeches, publications of our societies, and to the press connected therewith, we must attribute the extraordinary results we have alluded to By bringing the ignorant and the learned together, those who were willing to be instructed mingling with those who were capable of teaching, by employing capital in collecting and publishing facts, by making these the texts from which our speakers have discoursed to thousands, and which our journals have carried to every market table in the kingdom; by these means, all of which our Agricultural societies and clubs have employed, information on this point of practice has been promulgated, and ignorance has been dispelled at a speed, and in a degree unparalleled at any other period in the history of agricultural improvement, and probably unattainable by any other means. By these means, the disadvantages of locality and circumstance, of isolation and limited opportunity of active communion with the world and its daily progress, have been overcome—disadvantages which have always been regarded as fatal obstacles to the progress of improvement, either in the knowledge or the practice of our farmers.

The efficacy of these means is, however, evidenced by other cases as well as the one now quoted. Thus it is a matter well ascertained that we have progressed more during the last four years, under the influence of these means, in our knowledge of the true economy of all other manures—especially of bones—than during the previous forty years. It is equally, too, a matter of fact, that the same mode of procuring and spreading knowledge abroad, has caused as great an advantage to be made in the fundamental work of improvement—draining, both as regards principle and detail.

And the rapid increase which has taken place in the use of guano is suggestive of another important reflection. The million and a quarter of capital which has been spent in guano is so much *extra* capital employed in the cultivation of the soil. In proof of which we find that the great demand for guano did not, during the past year, diminish the market for other manures. For example, bones have been 30 per cent. dearer during 1844 and 1845, than in the previous year. This million and a quarter of extra capital beneficially employed in cultivation, cannot have produced less than two millions worth of food for the population and wealth for the country. What then, indeed, is the value of the assertion that the farmers of England are "behind their age;" or, that the institutions which have been founded for the encouragement and promotion of agriculture, are but "a mockery, a delusion, and a snare:" and are as incompetent to effect that purpose as the farmer is unwilling to be taught. An ounce of such a fact as we have stated at the commencement of this article will outweigh a ton of this empty verbiage. To the practical farmer, however, there is one other consideration connected with the great fact to which we have drawn attention, which is of paramount importance. It is the consideration how a supply adequate to such a consumption is to be obtained for the future. At the present moment, indeed, this question is of peculiar interest; we shall, therefore, in our next, attempt to inquire into the prospects of the market for the *future.*—*London Gard. Chron.*

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*Colman's Tour in Europe.*—We are indebted to the Boston publishers for the fourth part of this interesting work. Mr Colman seems to take to heart some strictures that have been sent him by a "good natured friend," in which it is complained that his work is not enough matter-of-fact and practical in its character. It is very true, that any one who takes up these numbers with the expectation of finding a dry, professional detail of the mode of English husbandry, will be disappointed. Indeed, we are free to confess that we do not think Mr Colman is a man of detail, and we have sometimes regretted that his work was not a little *more* dry and statistical; but his style is very easy, rather too sentimental, perhaps; his sketches are extremely graphic, the information conveyed is deeply interesting, and the whole work extremely readable for its agricultural, moral, political, religious and sentimental disquisitions.—*Farmer's Monthly Visitor.*

*Buckwheat without Grit.*—Did any person who eats buckwheat cakes, ever have the good fortune to get any containing not a particle of grit? A method not generally known, was lately stated to us by a practical farmer, who says that buckwheat raised in this way, is entirely free from the difficulty.

The buckwheat is sown at the usual time, but before harrowing, a bushel of rye is sown with it to the acre; they both come up together, and the buckwheat, being much the most rapid growth, soon obtains the ascendancy, the rye only forming a smooth green carpet beneath, which completely prevents the dashing of the grit of the soil by rain upon the buckwheat when it is cut, and otherwise keeps it clean. After the crop of buckwheat is removed, the rye obtains sufficient growth before winter, and the next season affords a good crop of itself. Thus, the buckwheat is protected, and two crops obtained from a single seeding.—*Alb. Cult.*

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*Compliment to an American Author.*—I deem it proper that the pages of the Cultivator should record the flattering compliment recently paid by a royal personage to Mr A. J. Downing, one of our citizens, well known for his works on Landscape Gardening, Rural Architecture, &c., which on this side of the water, have been regarded with high admiration, and are already considered as standard works.

His work on Landscape Gardening has also attracted attention in Europe, and has been greeted there with many expressions of commendation. The Queen of Holland has lately forwarded to Mr Downing an autograph letter, together with a magnificent ruby ring, encircled by three rows of diamonds, in acknowledgement of the pleasure which she has derived from the perusal of his book. Perhaps no similar recorded instance can be found of a royal autograph having been added to the gift of a jewel, by way of giving stronger emphasis to the expression of admiration. A. OF THE NORTH. —*Ibid.*

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*Potato Culture.*—Wm. R. Latta, of Virginia, informs us that he has tried the plan of cutting potatoes in the middle and planting the two ends separately. The result has been that the sprout or "point" end has produced most, but the "stem" end has given potatoes of the best size, and far superior for table use. Mr L. also states that he has tried the plan of thinning potatoes. He took a part of a field of potatoes and thinned alternate rows. The number of stalks to the hill was from ten to twelve, and they were thinned to four and five. The effect was to lessen the yield in the rows that were thinned, but the potatoes were of better size and quality.—*Ibid.*

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*Potato Rot.*—From the results of experience and investigation, this disease appears to be a "parasitical fungus," very small, but in its nature like the toadstool or mushroom. From this fact, the last season, I considered what would destroy this vegetable excrescence, either in the seed, or otherwise; to accomplish this, I dipped the seed potatoes, just before planting, in strong brine, and while wet dusted them with fresh slacked or quick lime. Very few of my potatoes have shown any sign of the rot, although many were in a diseased state at the time of planting. It may, or may not, have done good. As it did no injury, I intend to try it again. —*Far. Monthly Visitor.* P.

From the Portsmouth (N. H.) Journal.

## BLACK MUD AS A MANURE—DIFFERENT QUALITIES DISTINGUISHED.

In a former number, I have spoken of compost manure, of which low ground was a principal component. Black mud, or black earth, has been generally made use of as a principal ingredient of composts, and knowing there is a vast difference in its natural richness and worth, I have thought that a few hints, the results of my own experience and observation, might be given with some profit.

To define the difference well, I will first undertake to show some of the bad or unprofitable results from the use of it. On the farm where I live, there are no sunken swamps, but a sufficiency of this black soil for my use, situated in different parts of the farm. I have been averse to buying manure, as many do, especially of the light strawy horse dressing, as its durability is not lasting. In fact, I have never bought a load of any kind of manure, although within three miles of town. It has been my drift to do what I could with the natural resources of the farm. I have always held the opinion, that a farmer would find himself better off, at twenty years' end, without the expense of buying and hauling manure, than with it; and this I have seen verified, by confessions of more than one, who have gone largely into the business, in this vicinity, and who have thereby lost thousands of dollars.

Some years ago, I got out 200 loads of black mud, of a good texture, and spread it over my garden, four inches thick. It was put on in winter, well pulverized, spread in spring, and plowed in quite deep, and cross plowed. My garden, before this process, produced handsome vegetables. The ensuing season, with the usual manure, my beets were not more than 1 1-2 inch long, and not larger than a pipe-stem; Swedish turnips the same; onions, &c. no better; my corn was red-leaved and evidently injured. From this result, I used no more for years, and had the task of disputing with those who used black mud and were in favor of it.

Some time elapsed, when I had occasion to drain off a springy spot where this black mud was deep, very fine and handsome. Some of my good friends seeing this, persuaded me to haul out a few loads on high ground in the fall. In the following spring, having read in an agricultural paper that black mud was the best manure for apple trees, I tried the experiment. Being called from home one day, I directed my son to take a load of the black mud, and 120 trees with him, and proportion the mud to the trees, in setting them out. However, he used up his mud with 100, and set out the 20 without any. The results were, that the 100 all died off gradually, their leaves turning yellow early in the summer; but the 20 all lived. This mud being so very handsome, we spread a bushel or two round each of my apple trees, that stood in grass. Finding they were shedding their leaves, we immediately scraped it away as clean as possible, and saved them; the grass being as dead as unslacked lime would have made it. Henceforth and forever, I resolved to have done with black mud, and when any person spoke in its favor, I supposed he had not tried it fairly, but in some way had deceived himself.

My mind was made up, that if any substance was poisonous of itself to vegetables, it was worth nothing as a compost article, for it would cost more to make good manure of it than it was worth. This idea I had fully imbibed.

Some time having elapsed, I had occasion to drain a flat piece of ground, which the water from springs, &c., always overflowed, during some part of the season, and in taking the lowest course, we run through a growth of large alders, black birch, ash, maple, &c.; the mud was thrown out into heaps. In passing it, it was observable in the first season, that the piles were grassed over thick with white clover, intermixed with thistles of the largest kind. One was pulled up for a show, extending its branches eight feet.

This event brought me to look again into some secrets heretofore hidden from me. I argued, if those vegetables grow so very luxuriantly, indicating very rich ingredients in the mud, how is it possible that such material composted, or in any other mode made susceptible to vegetation, should not be productive?

I again have resumed the use of black mud, and with good success. But before I enlarge on its benefits, I return to show the ill effects of black mud or compost, from the experience of a neighbor. A large quantity, say from 200 to 400 loads, was got out, and from 200 to 300 casks of lime, and 100 to 200 loads of manure, principally stable, were piled up, and worked over sufficiently together. A piece of warm sandy loam of 12 acres was selected, and this compost was put on; the ground well plowed, harrowed, and rolled off in neat order, for it was a fancy piece, and much dependence was placed on it. I believe the manure was put in the hills. The gentleman told me that he did not get more than twelve bushels of sound corn from the 12 acres! This seemed a strange result to all who knew the circumstance, as the same ground had usually produced good crops. In this compost it was generally supposed the lime injured the crop, but the whole together went for what it brought.

I think the lime in this composted state, as manure, was of little value, and it is rational to suppose the mud was of less.

These unfortunate results go to show that black mud is good for nothing of itself. It is evident that there is much of this bog matter that is poisonous, in its natural state, to most kinds of vegetables—and where is this sort to be found? It may be found in flat, cold, mossy, and deep bogs, and among a black growth. The mould or mud is made or collected from the falling of the leaves, bark, limbs, trees, &c., which are known not to possess the rich, congenial properties of the hard wood forest. This is where I got my beautiful black mould, that I killed my apple trees and grass with. The first that I obtained for my garden, was not in the forest, but we found the old settlers of large pine stumps and roots, probably many hundreds of years old. At the time of getting this black mud, I thought that what looked best, was the best—but the truth is far different.

The mould made from the growth of good hard wood is of itself rich, and acts as moderate manure. For instance: I cut a growth off a piece of ground consisting principally of oak, with some scattering pines—it remained in pasture some ten years, when it was plowed. The stumps were then losing their sap and bark. In planting, I usually planted as snug to the stumps as the rows ranged, and my practice was to drop my corn on the sward and haul on the earth;—whereby near the oak stumps I got my best hills. In the same manner, I planted by the pine stumps, but the difference was very great. I never harvested a good ear of corn by the side of a pine or hemlock stump, for the corn in its growth there, always exhibited a sickly appearance. And what observing person has not noticed the great difference in the products of apparently the same black mould; on some it is hard to produce any thing, while others are most productive. I will name an instance of the latter. An industrious schoolmaster, a neighbor of mine, one who works hard in summer, and is sure to keep school in winter—bought a piece of land, and is fast progressing in making a farm: about 20 acres of it lay at the foot of a slope of ground of rich black mould, having a gentle descent. This black mould was evidently made from a hard wood growth, there being now some scattering elms, ash, black birch, &c. A few years since, at the commencement of breaking up this ground for a field, I was consulted as to quality of the soil. I considered it uncertain, as we are often disappointed in those black soils: however, he commenced, and the result has been most fortunate. His crops have been luxuriant, his oats this year (where he planted potatoes the last,) are the largest I ever saw—tall, thick and heavy, and yet not a particle of manure was ever put on the land. His grass that has followed his crops, exceeds any. This is deep black loam, or mud.

Our industrious schoolmaster is also making great progress on a few acres of his upland: he gets the best crop of corn of any of his neighbors—50 to 70 bushels per acre—on ground that was considered worn out by tilling constantly. He plows to the beam, and puts a shovelfull of his loam or mud, a little composted, in the hill: by this mode he always obtains 50 bushels, or over.

One thing more occurs to my mind which goes to establish the fact, that the richness found in this black mould results from the favorable kinds of forest growth.

Fifty to sixty years since, a brother was possessed of a good farm in Greenland, bordering on Great Bay. On the most conspicuous part of the farm, by the shore of this Bay, was a swell of sand, that was always bare, and wasting away by the winds. The whole of this swell was set out with locust trees—they throve well, shot out, and soon became a pretty forest. They were afterwards cut off for posts, and sold at Salem. They soon sprang up again, and now there remains a beautiful forest—the shrubbery done sprouting, and out of the way. In making a visit recently to the farm, I took a seat for a while in this most delightful grove. What adds more to the beauty of this spot, is the very extraordinary fine and heavy crop of grass this ground now produces. At the time I was there the latter crop was fit to cut, which I suppose must overrun a ton per acre. I was informed that two crops gave 3 tons of the best hay. Here we see the great effects of the falling of abundance of heavy bloom, &c., [forming black mould.]

My object in this essay has been to show plainly the vast difference there is in the quality of black mud, so generally used as manure, and to show a way to distinguish the two qualities.

In my remarks on this black mould, I have thought best to take the extreme cases, that the distinction should be the more easily seen. Many more extreme cases might have been named, as well as some of a medium character, but it would extend this essay to too great a length.

People generally have thought black mud to be as near of a quality, as of color and fineness; therefore, I may be liable to be discredited; but I pledge myself to support and confirm every assertion to any inquirer.

A. ROBINSON.

*Portsmouth, Jan.* 10, 1846.

☞It is undoubtedly true, as Mr Robinson says, (and the same has been observed by others,) that

there is a difference in black mould or mud from low grounds, and that the variable quality of this, is due to the different growths of which it is the remains. That found where the soft and resinous kinds of trees once flourished, is known to be less valuable than that taken from places where the chief growth was hard wood trees.

But there is another circumstance which sometimes affects the quality of this mud or muck, viz: the proximity of high lands abounding in *oxide of iron*—a substance highly deleterious to vegetation—which, by washings of rains, is led on and saturates the lowlands.

But the *worst* sort of black mud or mould—that containing oxide of iron, or that freely charged with acidity—is useful as a material for compost, if rightly managed—subjected to the action of neutralizing agents, as fresh stable dung and lime, and suffered to remain sufficiently long in the heap to undergo favorable changes.

To use black mud by itself *alone*, as Mr Robinson did on his garden and apple trees, is always injudicious, because always hazardous.

The remarkable failure mentioned by Mr R. in the case of the twelve acres of corn, we think must have been mainly caused by the imperfect manner of composting—and, probably, in some measure, by the over-dose of lime. But, to whatever cause the failure was due, it was certainly the most disastrous one, attending an experiment of the kind, that we ever heard of. There must have been something radically wrong in the management.

We suspect our valued correspondent, L. Bartlett, Esq., could give us some comments on the preceding article, which would be interesting and instructive—and we mean for him to take this as an invitation *to do so*—if it be his will and pleasure. —Ed. Far.

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*Potato Rot.*—We give it as our decided opinion that "potato disease" and "potato murrain," are merely idle terms, that bear no direct relation whatever to existent things. There is no "disease," no "murrain," properly so called. The potatoes are just *rotten*; and that is the long and short of it. The discoloration, commencing in this spot and extending to that—the softness, the waxiness, the fetor—all these things and many more such like, we have seen a score of times in potatoes that have spontaneously rotted in a damp, dark cellar. We can confirm what the microscopists and chemists say about appearances and reactions, and can tell them plenty of untold truths besides: but not potatoes only—*any* vegetable of similar composition, will give like results when in a state of decay. These acids, alkalies, atomic defects, sporules, granules, ruptured cells, &c., are a *consequence* of the potato mischief, and not a *cause* of it. There is nothing new in tha circumstance; we have been familiar with it from childhood, and so have many simple observers who are older in the art of taking notice than ourselves. It is no novelty in this country, any more than elsewhere: it attracts attention because of the almost universality of its prevalence. And has not the cause been universal? Cold water is the *fountain head!* Take our word for it, there is no mystery in the affair: cloudy skies and drenching rains have done it all.—*London Medical Times.*

☞Truly, "a wiser than Solomon is here!" The mystery that has enveloped the potato plague, is at last dissipated, and the blind investigators of the subject, who have racked their brains all to no purpose in attempts to discover the cause of the evil, have now shown to their obtuse visions, in a luminous light, the true and only solution of the enigma, which they have vainly endeavored to discover.

For this flood of light so unexpectedly poured upon a hitherto dark subject, the world are indebted to a disciple of Galen: (so we presume.) He will in future be looked upon as an oracle—and the same wonder that was excited in respect to Goldsmith's pedagogue, will doubtless exist in respect of him, to wit—"that one small head can carry all he knows!"

But, badinage aside—"we give it as our decided opinion" that this professor of physic is better qualified to talk of *pukes* than of *potatoes*. He says but one thing that is creditable to his head—that is, that *rotten vegetables are "no novelty"* in England: we can assent to this, and think the same may be said of *shallow observers*. "There is no mystery in the affair," says this prodigy of wisdom—"cloudy skies and drenching rains have done it all." If, before presuming to speak so oracularly on the subject, he had taken pains to have informed himself of existent facts concerning it, he might have learned that the self-same "malady," "murrain" or "rot," which proved so disastrous to the potato crop in portions of Great Britain, last year, did, also, *then*, or in previous years, prove destructive to the crop in other countries, in seasons *not at all remarkable for "cloudy skies" or "drenching rains."*

But it is a waste of time, words, and space, to attempt to show the flimsy texture of such cobweb theories as that advanced by the writer of the foregoing, to explain the cause of the wide-spread, unprecedented, and as yet inexplicable affection of the potato plant. Too dry seasons and too wet seasons—deterioration of seed—over-cultivation—and some other *equally probable* causes for the affection, had, we think, for the credit of their respective advocates, better be quietly dropped, and harped upon no longer—for these theories of the origin of the plague, are hardly less *rotten* than the potatoes which it has attacked. D.

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## FOURTH AGRICULTURAL MEETING AT THE STATE HOUSE.

The subject under consideration was—The Cultivation of Small Grains.

Mr Morton, of Hadley, opened the discussion. He observed that he had spent most of his life in other than agricultural pursuits, but for the last 16 years had managed a farm. He purchased a lot of land, four years since, containing 22 acres, on which he had experimented in raising rye. This lot of land had been cleared some dozen years, from which four crops of rye and two of corn had been taken, and these very poor ones. It was then neglected, and suffered to grow up to brush: he bought it at auction, at the time stated, at what was considered a high price by his neighbors, who rather laughed at him for the bargain. On 7 acres of the lot, he cut the brush, and cleared off the logs and other rubbish, which had been left on the land, and in June, with a heavy team of 3 yoke of oxen, he plowed it from 6 to 7 inches deep; plowed and harrowed it again in August; the 10th of September harrowed again, and sowed 5 pecks of rye and 1 bushel of plaster to the acre: the result was a crop of 20 bushels to the acre. The same process of sowing with rye and plaster, was repeated the following year, but in consequence of the grain being badly washed and injured by a very heavy rain, when it was coming up, it produced a crop of but 16 bushels to the acre: the third year it was sowed down to rye again, and seeded down to grass. The average crop for the three years, was 18 bushels to the acre. In seeding down for pasture, he used White Dutch clover, with a little red, about half and half of each. In sowing oats, it was his practice to put on 3 bushels to the acre; where a less quantity was used, weeds were apt to come in: this quantity he did not consider any too much for strong, moist soils, and grass succeeded well afterwards.

He sows wheat about the 10th of October: he puts the seed in strong brine, by which the chess and other foul seed is brought to the top: in this way the seed is perfectly cleansed: if the seed is not smutty, he applies slacked lime enough to adhere to the wheat, to get it in a fit state to sow: should the wheat be smutty, the lime is slacked with the wheat, and although it will produce so much heat as to boil, it will not be injured by the process; the smut is thus destroyed. His rule is two bushels to the acre; the general practice is to sow less, but he thought it a bad one. He did not think much of the buckwheat crop: it might do for very light, poor soils.

He had sowed grass seed in August, but his general practice was to sow in the spring, in which he succeeded best. When applied in the spring to fall grain, he goes over the ground with a light harrow or brush. He thought grass succeeded better after wheat than after rye or oats.

Mr Gleason, of Wayland, stated that he was in the habit of raising barley, wheat and rye, but that barley was the most profitable for him; it left the ground in better order than any other crop. If barley was to succeed Indian corn, (this was his common course,) the manure was carted on to the field and spread before the hills were split; in splitting the hills the manure is covered. If it is to follow potatoes, the manure is spread, and the ground receives a light plowing; afterwards, as also where corn precedes barley, he gives a deep plowing. He prefers sowing early in April. He raised 56 bushels to the acre, and believed a bushel of barley equal in value to a bushel of Indian corn to fatten hogs, and no food was more nourishing to horses than barley meal.

Of late years, he had not raised oats, as he found grass did not succeed well after this crop, although more fodder could be obtained from it.

He cuts his barley before it is dead ripe; it lies in the swarth one day; the next, it is turned over; it took about 4 days to make it; in this way, very little of the grain was lost by shelling out.

On an acre of light land near his house, he had raised a crop of rye or corn every year, for the last 30 years. Rye had been raised on this lot four years in succession, yielding a crop of not less than 13, nor more than 25 bushels. For corn, he had used 6 loads of good barn manure and 25 loads of meadow muck per acre. This brings in (after a crop of rye has been taken off,) a heavy burden of what is called "pussy grass," (in some places, bottle grass)—as much as he could turn in with the plow: this, he considered a valuable green crop manure for another crop of rye. He had obtained on this ground from 25 to 40 bushels of corn to the acre.

He sowed one bushel of rye and two of barley per acre.

He had a poor opinion of buckwheat: thought it drew more from the ground than any other grain.

*(Continued on next page.)*

NEW ENGLAND FARMER,
AND HORTICULTURAL REGISTER.

Edited by Joseph Breck.

Boston, Wednesday, Feb. 11, 1846.

## FOURTH AGRICULTURAL MEETING AT THE STATE HOUSE.

(Continued from the preceding page.)

Mr Morton remarked that in relation to deep plowing, he should not recommend the practice generally, but on worn out lands, he approved a course of deeper plowing at each successive time, bringing up at each time a little of the fresh subsoil. Pine, sandy lands were not often plowed deep enough. He recommended sowing wheat and oats together, adding one peck of the former to the usual complement of the latter.

Mr Gleason, in answer to an inquiry, said he cultivated the two-rowed barley. He considered 35 bushels a good crop. He sows clover on his rye fields in March, and harrows it in, and it succeeds well. He thought light lands could be made more profitable for rye than any other grain, on account of the high price of rye straw: that the value of straw grown on an acre, at present prices, would average $15. Spring rye, he said, would leave the ground in good order, but it was liable to blast.

Mr Stone, of Hardwick, said, as the discussion seemed to drag heavy, he would venture to say something, if it were merely to advance an unsound opinion, for the sake of calling out some one to disprove it. He would undertake to maintain for argument sake, that the farmers of New England did not understand the proper method of preparing the ground for the cultivation of wheat—and that there was neither in our climate or soil any reason why wheat might not be successfully cultivated here. In Italy, and other countries of the Mediterranean, wheat had been successfully raised for centuries, and still such bountiful crops were raised, that not only an abundance was produced for home consumption, but a large overplus for exportation. So in Germany and in Poland, wheat had been raised ever since the time of Julius Cæsar, and large quantities were still produced; so that in times of scarcity in England, supplies were furnished from the Mediterranean cheaper than across the Atlantic. In our western country, wheat was raised on new ground, and abundant crops were produced; but on our old lands in New England, this could not be done, and he thought there must be some mode of preparing land for wheat with which we were unacquainted. The enterprising farmers of New England enrich their lands, but they fail to realize a crop of grain, although there is straw enough. Before the grain begins to ripen, during the hot days of June or July, the growth is so rapid that the sap vessels burst, and the sap exuded, and forms what is called the *blast*. He thought there might be some way discovered by which the excessive growth may be checked and the crop successfully raised.

Mr Buckminster was sorry to see his favorite crop, buckwheat, so undervalued by some of those who had spoken. On some poor light lands, it might be raised year after year, without manure, and by plowing in the first crop, the land would improve from year to year, and 15 to 20 bushels to the acre could be obtained. He knew there was a strong prejudice in the minds of some farmers against this grain: many supposed it dangerous to have any of the seed scattered on the farm, and had said, "when it is once introduced, you cannot root it out.' He could remember when it was customary to burn the straw in the field, lest the seed might be mixed with the manure and spread over the farm. By sowing in May, and turning under the first crop about the first of July, a second crop may be saved for its grain. Good buckwheat is as valuable to fatten hogs as any grain we raise. The straw, when it is cut in due season, is as valuable for young cattle and sheep as any of our fresh meadow hay.

Mr Gleason knew of no use for this grain, as an article of human food, except it was to burn one's throat; for it could only be eaten while hot; and as food for hogs, he would as soon go to the saw-mill for a load of saw-dust, as he considered it of about equal value for the purpose.

Mr Buckminster persisted in his opinion of the value of buckwheat. A bushel of buckwheat he believed equal to a bushel of corn for hogs, and as for human beings, he considered it an excellent article of food, and advised Mr Gleason to step into an eating house in Congress street, some morning, and get a good breakfast of buckwheat cakes and maple sap, and thought he might change his opinion.

Mr Morton had no great opinion of buckwheat; but he thought it might be valuable for fattening hogs, and that 5 pecks were about equal to 1 bushel of corn. He would not have the straw brought into his yard, for it would stock his ground with seed, and three hoeings would not eradicate it. He had seen it grown ten years in succession, and it so impoverished the ground that even sorrel would not grow on it.

Mr Allen, of Pembroke, had an impression that the climate of New England was not favorable to the cultivation of any of the small grains. It frequently occurred in our climate that very chilly, cold weather was succeeded by very warm, and it was a common occurrence that the loss of the crop followed. It was his practice to raise a small quantity of oats every year, for his own use, but he considered it a very exhausting crop, and he was careful to sow them where they would do the least mischief. He gave the land allotted for them such a preparation and subsequent culture as to prevent its being essentially injured. He sows grass seed with the oats, and sometimes it does well, but at other times it fails.

As to wheat, he thought his flour came cheaper when he puts his hand in his pocket—although it was raised formerly in the county of Plymouth with equal success as other small grains. It was no doubt true that we had not yet acquired the art of preparing the ground, and he doubted whether it would ever become a profitable crop in this section of the country.

Barley was not an unprofitable crop, and grass succeeds better after it than after other grain. He never raised so much per acre as mentioned by Mr Gleason, nor did he think it so profitable.

He had cultivated rye to a greater extent than any other small grain. He formerly sowed it at the last hoeing of his corn, but had now abandoned that course. He sows it now in few fields where he intended to cultivate. His practice was to plow up light lands in June or July; in September, pulverize with the cultivator, and then sows one bushel of rye and as much white and yellow pine and birch seed as he could get: he obtains a good crop of rye, and never plows again, but leaves the field to become a forest for his grandchildren.

As for buckwheat, he said he knew but little about it, but as much as he desired to know. He denounced it, cakes and all.

Mr Stone, had known of experiments in raising crops of rye year after year, but thought it must be very much like the experiment the cooper made with his cow, in undertaking to learn her to live on nothing: he had nearly succeeded, when the cow died.

Mr Cole had known rye raised 5 years in succession on the same ground, with good success. A crop of rye was grown upon the ground after the rye was harvested, and plowed in. He thought, in regard to raising wheat in Massachusetts, that the obstacle was not in the climate, but in the soil, which had been, perhaps, exhausted of the elements necessary for the thrift of the crop, and only needed to be re-supplied with these elements. He had seen as fine crops of wheat raised in Maine, as are commonly raised in the West. At Cape Elizabeth, good crops were now raised: formerly it did not succeed there.

Mr Allen said it was a fact that the crop had failed where lands had been well prepared. Whether it was from the clearing of the country, or from other causes, he could not say. The seasons or climate had changed from what it was 30 years ago: it was different from the climate of our western States, and from the humid climate of Europe.

With respect to obtaining successive crops of rye on the same ground, without manuring, he doubted whether it could be done without impoverishing the soil. A writer in 1790, says it may be grown 20 years in succession, if reapt (cut) high. He would discourage the practice of selling straw, for if that course was persisted in, the lands would become so barren as not to produce rye, wheat, nor even the article so highly prized by one who had spoken.

Mr French, of Braintree, spoke of his unsuccessful attempts to raise wheat. He had applied lime to his wheat land, with no beneficial effect: his wheat blasted. He thought farmers had yet something to learn before wheat could be profitably grown in New England. He had abandoned oats entirely, as a poor and profitless crop. With barley he had succeeded better—but generally he had only cultivated small grains for the purpose of laying down land to grass.

Mr Cole thought farmers had manured too highly for wheat; it would do better after a crop of corn without manuring.

Subject for the next meeting—The Cultivation of Indian Corn.

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☞The second (and last) No. of Dr. Lindley's able articles on the Deterioration of Races of Plants, will be found on another page. We think his arguments against the deteriorating theory strong, if not conclusive. Mr Downing, in his new work, "The Fruits and Fruit Trees of America,"—(a work which has already received a favorable notice from us, and which, after a more thorough perusal, we hesitate not to pronounce the best of the kind ever published in our country)—maintains the same theory as that held by Dr. Lindley. In proof of the fallacy of deterioration, Mr D. cites the Doyenne blanc, or St. Michael Pear, which at Newburg, where he resides, is as free from every appearance of disease, and produces fruit as perfect as at any period of its existence. Dr Lindley gives the same illustration of the White Beurre Pear, of France, which has been propagated from time immemorial, and exhibits no trace of debility, either from old age or artificial multiplication.

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☞*Brother Holmes, of the Maine Farmer*:—Stand up, and answer to the following presentment made by our *P. D.* He charges you with copying into your last paper, a little matter of his own concoction, headed "*Planning*," without attaching *credit* to the same—but he is less wroth at this obliquity of yours, from the fact that, as you have printed the said matter, there is an omission of words, by which the sense is materially marred. This is, in brief, his complaint, and he looks to you for the *amende honorable*. The *truly great*, Doctor, are always *just*.

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☞The attention of flower growers and dealers is invited to the advertisement of choice flower seeds on another page.

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☞In the last No. of the Journal of the London Hort. Society, there is an elaborate and learned paper on the potato disease, by Rev. M. J. Berkeley, "the great mycologist," as he is termed by the editor of the London Gardeners' Chronicle. He attributes the disease to *fungi*.

## THERMOMETRICAL.

Reported for the New England Farmer.

Range of the Thermometer at the Garden of the proprietor of the New England Farmer, Brighton, Mass in a shaded Northerly exposure, to the week ending Feb. 8.

| Feb. 1846. | | 7 A.M. | 12, M. | 5, P.M. | Wind. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Monday, | 2 | 20 | 35 | 30 | N. E. |
| Tuesday, | 3 | 32 | 39 | 35 | S. E. |
| Wednesday, | 4 | 37 | 37 | 34 | N. W. |
| Thursday, | 5 | 33 | 44 | 39 | W. |
| Friday, | 6 | 23 | 36 | 33 | N. W. |
| Saturday, | 7 | 24 | 40 | 35 | S. E. |
| Sunday, | 8 | 33 | 25 | 14 | N. W. |

## BRIGHTON MARKET.—Monday, Feb. 9, 1846.

Reported for the N. E. Farmer.

At market 490 Beef Cattle, 900 Sheep, and 340 Swine. 70 Beef Cattle and 400 Sheep unsold.

Prices.—*Beef Cattle.*—We quote to correspond with last week: Extra $5,75. First quality $5,25 a $5,50. Second quality $4,75 a 5,25. Third quality $4,00 a 4,50.

*Sheep.*—Dull. Sales at $1,67, $2,00, $2,50, $3,25 and $4,25.

*Swine.*—Not in demand. No sales of lots to peddle. At retail from 4 to 6.

## WHOLESALE PRICES CURRENT.

*Corrected with great care, weekly.*

SEEDS. Herds Grass, $0 00 a 2 50 per bushel. Red Top 00 to 00 cents. Clover—Northern, 11 to 11½c.—Southern, 10 a 11c. Flax Seed, $1 50 per bushel. Lucerne, 33 c. per lb. Canary Seed, $2 25 a 2 50 per bushel. Millet, 1 75 to 2 00.

GRAIN The Grain market has been throughout the week greatly depressed.

Corn—Northern, new, bushel 00 a 00—Southern, round yellow, 00 a 00—Southern flat yellow, 64 a 65—do. do. white 60 a 62—do New Orleans, 00 a 00—Barley 00 a 00—Rye, Northern, 80 a 83—do. Southern, 00 a 00—Oats Southern, 40 a 43— Northern do. 44 to 45—Beans, per bushel 1 37 a 1 50.—Shorts, per double bush. 50 a 55—Bran, 00 a 40.

FLOUR. The market for Genesee, until towards the close of the week, exhibited but little animation.

Baltimore, Howard Street, 4 mos. cr. new, $5 25 a 5 37—do. wharf, $5 25 a 0 00—do. free of garlic, $0 00 a 0 00—Philadelphia do. 4 mos. $5 25 a 0 00 — Fredericksburg, low f'd new $0 00 a 5 25—Alexandria, wharf, 5 25 a 5 37—Georgetown, $5 37 a 5 50—Extra do. 0 00 a 0 00—Richmond Canal, $5 37 a 5 50—do. City, $0 00 a 0 00—Petersburgh, City, $0 00 a 0 00—do. Country $0 00 a 0 00—Genesee, common, cash, $5 68½ a 5 75— do fancy brands, $5 87 a 6 00—Ohio via Canal, $5 25 a 5 37—do do New Orleans, cash $0 00 a 0 00. Rye, $4 75 a 5 00—Indian Meal in bbls. $4 12 a 4 25.

PROVSIONS. The demand for Pork, as usual at this season, is quite limited, and prices have a downward tendency; moderate sales at quotations.

Beef—Mess 4 mo. new bbl. $8 75 a 9 25—Navy—$7 75 a 8 25.—No. 1, $0 00 a 0 00,—do Prime $5 75 a 6 00—Pork—Extra clear 4 mo. bbl. $14 00 a 14 50—do Clear $00 00 a 13 50 do. Mess, $11 60 a 12 00—do Prime $10 00 a 10 25—do Mess from other States,— a — —do Prime do do $0 00 a 0 00 do. Cargo do. 0 00 a 0 00 —Clear do do $00 00 a 00 00—Butter, ship'ng, 11 a 13—do store. uninspected, 12 a 14—do dairy, 15 cts. a 20—Lard, No. 1, Boston ins. 8¼ a 8½—do South and Western, 8 a 8½— Hams, Boston, 9 a 9½—Southern and Western, 0 a 0—Cheese, Ship'g and 4 meal 6 a 8—do new milk, 7½ a 0.

WOOL. Duty. The value whereof at the place of exportation shall not exceed 7 cts. per pound, 5 per cent. ad. val. All whereof the value exceeds 7 cts. per pound, 40 per ct. ad. val. and 3 cts per pound.

The sales of domestic Wool, for the past week, have been light, and without alteration in prices.

Prime or Saxony Fleeces, washed, lb. 40 a 41 c.—American full blood, do 37 a 38—Do. 3-4 do 32 a 33—Do. 1-2 do 30 a 31—1-4 and common do 27 a 29 — Smyrna Sheep, washed, 18 a 20—Do. unwashed, 10 a 14 — Bengasi do 6 a 12—Saxony, clean, 00—Buenos Ayres unpicked, 7 a 10—do. do. picked, 10 a 13—Superfine Northern pulled lamb 33 a 36—No. 1 do. do. do. 27 a 30—No. 2 do do do 18 a 20—No. 3 do do do 14 a 16.

HOPS. Duty 20 per cent.

The transactions have been for small lots, to consumers, at 25c for 1st sort, and at the immediate close, 29 bales sold at 25½c. per lb.

1st sort Mass. 1844, lb. 25 a 00 ; 2d do 22 a 23.

HAY, 20 to 21 per ton—Eastern Screwed $17 to 18.

EGGS, 15 to 18.

## MASSACHUSETTS HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

*Camellia Exhibition.* Saturday, February 14th, is the day appointed for the Exhibition of Camellias, when premiums will be awarded for the first, second and third best 12 distinct varieties.

To be shown in Pots. Entry to be made previous to 11 o'clock.

JOSEPH BRECK,
*Chairman of Flower Committee.*

Boston, Feb. 9, 1846.


## SUPERB VARIETIES OF FLOWER SEEDS.

JOSEPH BRECK & CO. *Seedsmen and Florists*, No. 51 and 52 North Market street, (up stairs) have now received a full supply of fresh *FLOWER SEEDS* from the most celebrated Florists of Europe, from their own garden in Brighton and from other sources, of the most select varieties—ever offered in this country. Special attention has been given by the subscribers in long practice, in improving the numerous varieties of hardy Flowers, which have so long been the object of their cultivation, and they feel assured that the seeds saved by themselves, cannot be surpassed by any other growers in the country.

Among some of the choice seeds are the following, viz:

| | |
|---|---|
| Extra fine Verbena seeds, raised by an amateur in this country, from a bed of seedling, of 40 different varieties of every color and shade, price per package, | 25 |
| Extra fine Double Picotee and Carnation Pink seed, saved from a bed of 50 fine double varieties, (Breck & Co's. best.) | 25 |
| Extra Double Carnation seed from fine named Florists Flowers (imported,) | 25 |
| Extra double Picotee Pink seed from fine named double Flowers (imported) | 25 |
| Fine Carnation and Picotee Pink seed, | 12½ |
| Extra Double Florists Pink seed, from choice named Flowers (imported) | 25 |
| Double Chinese Imperial Pink seed, raised in this country from a bed of 50 or more fine varieties, | 12½ |
| Phlox Drummondii, mixed colors, embracing scarlet, crimson, purple, rose, pink, and variegated varieties, | 12½ |
| Calceolarias, mixed varieties, from fine named sorts, | 25 |
| Pansy seed, from a collection of named sorts, | 25 |
| Geraniums, from a great variety of fine named sorts, | 25 |
| Petunia seed, from a great variety of fine mixed, variegated and other sorts, | 12½ |
| Double Hollyhock seed, in boxes containing sixteen distinct varieties, | 75 |
| German Asters, of the most improved and splendid sorts, in boxes of 12 beautiful varieties, | 75 |
| Annual and perennial Lupins, in boxes, containing 16 distinct species and varieties, many of them most superb, | 75 |
| Goodetias and Œnotheras in boxes, 10 best varieties and species, | 50 |
| Russian and other ten week stock, 20 distinct varieties, | 1,00 |
| Ditto 10 ditto ditto | 50 |
| A collection of 20 best varieties of Annual Flower seeds, | 1,00 |
| Ditto 40 varieties of Annual and Perennial Flower seeds, | 2,00 |
| Boxes containing a choice collection of 100 varieties of Annual and Perennial Flower seeds, | 4,00 |
| Polyanthus seed from fine named sorts, per package, | 25 |
| Auricula ditto | 25 |
| Didiscus cœrulea, | 12½ |
| Brachycome Iberidifolia, | 25 |
| Mimulus—8 varieties, | 75 |
| Do. single paper, | 12½ |
| Double Balsams, 10 superb varieties, | 62½ |
| Four varieties fine Candytuft, | 25 |
| Six " sweet Peas, | 37½ |
| Four " wall Flower, | 25 |
| Four " Schizanthus, | 25 |

Also, other fine varieties, too numerous to mention, embracing a rare collection of more than 400 varieties. Catalogues may be had on application.

JOSEPH BRECK & CO.

Boston, Feb. 2.

## A FARM FOR SALE,

Situated in Newton, on the Worcester Turnpike, about seven miles from Boston. Said Farm contains about fifty-five acres of good land. Has a two story House, Barn, Sheds, &c A part or the whole will be sold, with or without the Buildings. For terms, &c. apply to the owner living upon the premises, or to C. Aiken. No. 56, South street, Boston.

WILLIAM AIKEN.

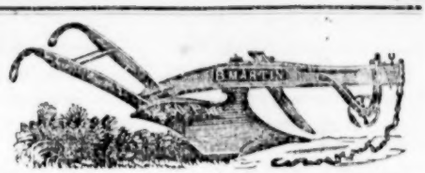
Feb. 11, 1846. pd. 2m. i. s.

## FOR SALE,

A *FARM* in Westboro', near the depot of the Boston and Worcester Rail Road, containing about twentyfive acres, well divided. Being the estate occupied by the late Nathan Fisher, Esq., deceased. If not sold previous to March 10th, the same will be rented. Refer to George Denny, Esq., Boston, Jabez G. Fisher, Esq. near the premises, or of the subscriber.

NATHANIEL FISHER.

Westboro', Jan. 26, 1846. 3wis.




## MARTIN'S MASSACHUSETTS PREMIUM EAGLE PLOWS.

The subscribers have for sale at their extensive Agricultural Warehouse, No. 51 & 52 N. Market street, *MARTIN'S MASSACHUSETTS PREMIUM IMPROVED EAGLE PLOWS.*

Mr. Martin's Plows combine new and important improvements adapting them to the different qualities of soil and the various modes and systems of culture. His Eagle Plows, as improved, are much longer, the mouldboard, landside and point, or share, all extended without any addition to the width or heel in its work; thus adapting this Plow to the more perfect turning under of the greensward, and inverting of the furrow-slice, so desirable in greensward plowing. The principle of these Plows is such, from where the furrow-slice is received upon the mouldboard to where it leaves it, that it enables the Plow to take up the furrow-slice with the greatest possible ease, bearing equally and lightly over the whole surface of the mouldboard, turning it over with the least possible bending or twisting, and preserving it flat, smooth and unbroken, laying the furrow-slices closely and compactly side by side, and creating but slight friction upon the face of the mouldboard in passing through the soil. Thus the Plow requires but very little power of draft beyond what is necessary to cut out the furrow-slice.

In testing the quality of Plows, the power by which it is moved, the ease with which it is handled, and the manner in which it completes the work, are three important points, all of which are wisely, accurately and judiciously preserved in these improved Plows.

The character of these Plows for ease of draft and management, and the excellence of their work, though well established in the minds of the farming community, were most fully and satisfactorily exhibited to the public at the grand trial of Plows by the Massachusetts Agricultural Society, at Worcester, October 9th, 1844, whose able and impartial committee awarded the highest premium of $50 to B. Martin, for the best Plow, for doing the best work with the least draft, in a trial open to the whole Union—this Plow running in its natural course, and keeping its true position, without any effort of the plowman, and turning a furrow 12 inches wide and 6 inches deep, with a much less draft than any other Plow on the ground.

These Plows, as improved, are considered to be nearest to perfection of any implements of the kind in this country, as well in respect to material and workmanship, as in form of construction.

At the late Cattle-Show and Plowing-Match of the Worcester County Agricultural Society, in the heart of that most valuable agricultural county, B. Martin's Plow received the highest and most enthusiastic commendation from intelligent and experienced practical farmers, who know and are the most competent judges.

His castings are of a superior kind, the workmanship not inferior to any other Plows in this country, and his timber being the very best of white oak; and every farmer knows that good timber in his Plows is of the utmost importance—all of which in fact renders B. Martin's Plow the very article every farmer wants. The high character of these Plows is abundantly sustained by a continued and extended patronage, which the manufacturer hopes by his efforts and exertions to retain. Being himself an experienced Plow-Maker, he will not spare any exertions in order to render his Plows a superior article.

Gentlemen are requested to call and examine these Plows before they purchase.

JOSEPH BRECK & CO.

Boston, March 24.

## CORN SHELLER.

A Corn sheller is one of the most convenient and labor saving implements that the practical farmer has in use. Various machines for this purpose have been invented. It can be used in all cases for large or small sized ears. It is very simple in its construction, and durable in its operation, and no way liable to get out of order; one man can work it togood advantage, though a man to turn, and a boy to feed it, works it much better than one alone. They are so light and portable, as to be easily removed from place to place, and one machine will serve for several families or even the inhabitants of a small town.

For sale at the Agricultural Warehouse and Seed Store Nos. 51 and 52, North Market Street.

JOS. BRECK & CO.

## FARMERS' ALMANACK FOR 1846.

For sale at the N. E. Farmer Office, Thomas's Almanac for 1846, by the hundred or dozen.

Boston, Nov. 4.